

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Treatment of Medians on Circulation Element Roads

**Policy
Number**

J-26

Page

1 of 2

Purpose

To define the County policy regarding the surfacing of the median area on a Circulation Element road when the local interest portion of the road is improved by a developer.

Background

San Diego County Standards require developers to construct a 20-foot strip of pavement along each exterior edge of a Circulation Element road fronting their property. This is known as the local interest portion of a road.

Construction of the two local interest portions of a Circulation Element road results in a 24-foot dirt strip in the middle of a collector road, a 42-foot dirt strip on a major road and a 66-foot dirt strip on a prime arterial.

In the absence of any treatment of the dirt median, traffic maneuvers onto the unpaved area creating hazardous conditions along the edge of the pavement. The elements then erode this area, damaging the road base and pavement. The result is an unsightly area and higher maintenance costs to the County.

Developers and/or residents often initiate efforts to have these areas landscaped. In the case of collector roads, the landscaping eventually has to be removed, to be replaced with paving.

Policy

In order to define procedures for the treatment of median areas, it is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

Whenever the construction of the local interest portion of a Circulation Element road would result in leaving an unsurfaced median between two paved traveled lanes, the developer shall, in addition to constructing the local interest portion of the road, place four inches of asphaltic surfacing on the dirt median area and place appropriate stripes on both sides of the asphaltic surfacing to prevent traffic encroachment. In intersections and transitions, the developer shall construct the full pavement section to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Works and at no expense to the County.

If the Director of Public Works determines all or a portion of the County interest lanes are necessary for reasons other than the development itself, the County may construct the 12-foot or the two 12-foot County interest lanes fronting on the local interest portion and surface the median area with two inches of asphalt concrete.

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Page

2 of 2

Alternately, the Director of Public Works may construct a full structural section through the median. In the event that the Director of Public Works determines that only a portion of the County interest work is necessary, the developer shall treat the remaining median area in accordance with this policy.

In intersections and transitions, the developer shall construct the full pavement section at no expense to the County and to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Works.

In lieu of the asphalt concrete surfacing on the median area of a major or prime arterial road, the County may provide landscaping in the median area if local residents form a special district to provide funding for the construction and maintenance of the landscaping. Alternatively, an organization such as a homeowners association or business association may enter into an agreement with the County to provide for such construction and/or maintenance.

Budgeting

The Director of Public Works shall include in his/her annual budget, funds sufficient to cover the estimated cost of construction of the County interest portion of Circulation Element roads resulting from the implementation of this policy.

Sunset Date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-10.

Board Action

05-14-74 (9)

10-05-82 (58)

07-26-88 (43)

12-12-89 (49)

07-14-99 (4)

06-23-04 (12)

CAO Reference

1. Department of Public Works